

ULSTER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

December 5, 2006
Ulster County Community College
Stone Ridge, NY

Members

Present:	Elliott Auerbach**	Village of Ellenville
	Joel B. Brink**	Town of Ulster
	Barbara Budik**	Saugerties Economic Development Council
	Mike Campbell	Village of Saugerties
	Mircea Catona	UC Department of Public Works
	Linda Cook**	Town of Hurley
	Dennis Doyle	UC Planning Board
	Pam Duke	Town of Rochester
	Nancy Hammond	Town of Lloyd
	Greg Helsmoortel ⁺	Town of Saugerties
	Jack Hohman**	NYS Thruway Authority
	Toni Hokanson	Town of New Paltz
	Mary Howard	UC Area Transit
	Cindy Lanzetta**	Town of Marlborough
	Peter Liepmann	UC Legislator
	Vincent Martello	Town of Marbletown
	Mark Morano	NYS Department of Transportation
	Richard Peters**	NYS Department of Transportation
	Joe Rich [^]	Federal Highway Administration
	Charles Schaller	UC Traffic Safety Board
	David Sheeley	UC Department of Public Works
	Michael Shultis*	Town of Hurley
	John Valk*	Town of Shawangunk

Staff

Present:	Sweta Basnet	UCTC
	Marianne Davis	UC Planning Department
	Jean Gunsch	NYMTC – Region 8 MPO Staff
	Bill Tobin	UCTC

Others

Present:	Maureen Brooks	Adirondack Trailways
	Lou Frangella	CSX Transportation
	Gilbert Hales	Town of Saugerties
	Nikki Koenig-Nelson	Shingebiss Association
	Albert Meyer	Town of Shawangunk
	Kathy Nolan	Town of Shandaken

⁺ Permanent Voting Member

* Current Voting Member (Until June 4, 2007)

** Voting Proxy

[^] Non-Voting Advisory Member

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Doyle at 9:34 a.m. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

CALL FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Hales offered an apology for the comments he made regarding pavement lines in Saugerties at the last meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Doyle asked for approval of the meeting summary from the August 8, 2006 meeting.

Motion to approve by Mr. Brink, seconded by Ms. Budik.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Campbell stated the SAMA study was complete and that a joint Village and Town Board meeting (citizens are welcome) would be held after January 1, 2007. He added that the participants were pleased with the consultant's work, Creighton Manning Engineering (CME), and he thanked Mr. Doyle for rescheduling the meeting.

Mr. Doyle stated that work on the City of Kingston Intermodal Center Study has begun with the selected consultant, Wendell Duscherer. The first technical memo will be out in January or February. Mr. Doyle stated UCTC has hired Systra Consulting for the Ulster County Train Detection project. Systra has also done studies for CSX in the past. Mr. Doyle stated Alta Planning & Design has been retained for the Ulster County Non-Motorized Transportation Study. Mr. Doyle stated the Route 209 Corridor Transportation and Land Use Study is now underway. The Route 209 study is funded with 80% FHWA and 20% State funds.

Ms. Basnet gave an update on the Traffic Count Report. She stated that the counts by UCTC have been approved by NYSDOT. NYSDOT counts have also been collected in Ulster County this past year and will be added to the final report. She stated that the final draft and maps will be completed by the end of December and that the changes to the functional class system maps are mostly finalized. Mr. Doyle explained that a number of roads in Ulster County serve as collectors, which make them eligible for certain types of federal funds. Mr. Tobin reminded the UCTC that they can vote to agree on changes to the functional class system but the Federal Highway ultimately has approval authority.

Mr. Tobin handed out a draft copy of the Ulster County Park and Ride Lot Capacity Analysis and Needs Assessment Report. Mr. Tobin requested that comments should be received by Mr. Doyle no later than December 15, 2006. Mr. Doyle added that comments from the regional transit carriers would be very helpful. Mr. Tobin stated we would like to see CMAQ funds helping to fund park/ride lot improvements. Mr. Peters stated that in order to use CMAQ or NYMTC funds we would need to show a benefit to Dutchess and Orange Counties.

Mr. Tobin stated that the Transportation Enhancement funding awards have been released by the Governor's office. He added that Ulster County did very well in the Region 8 category and distributed a list of successful recipients. Mr. Tobin stated that

unsuccessful TEP projects may be successful TIP projects in the TIP update process. Mr. Doyle congratulated the communities for participating and added that Ulster County received over \$3 million in TEP funding.

Mr. Tobin stated that 8 applications were submitted for the FTA Section 5307 project solicitation. Ms. Gunsch stated the 5307 application process is currently underway and a subcommittee has met, there are some questions concerning appropriate use of 5307 funds and they are waiting for responses from applications before making recommendations. Mr. Campbell stated that the advertisement of the 5307 application process was short and felt there was not enough time for applicants to respond. Mr. Doyle stated the deadline was extended to try to accommodate the needs of applicants. Mr. Tobin stated that the process does need fine tuning and will ensure applicants have more time. Mr. Doyle wanted to congratulate the three transportation councils for doing an enormous amount of work in a short period of time.

Mr. Tobin stated a Statewide Transportation Master Plan has been completed by NYSDOT and distributed copies. The Plan is also available on NYSDOT's website. Mr. Peters stated the plan focuses on the major corridors, concentrating on keeping the Interstate functioning at a high level and providing desired improvements to local areas. Mr. Tobin also mentioned that the Statewide Master Plan discusses the role of MPOs in New York State.

Mr. Doyle briefly discussed the second quarter MPO financial report. The UCTC has approximately \$418,000 programmed for various studies with an unprogrammed balance of less than \$20,000. Mr. Doyle said it will be difficult to take on additional work until we receive additional funding. Mr. Doyle stated we need an additional \$100,000 - \$120,000 to program additional studies. He added that we have been managing four studies, continuing the count program and other ongoing work. Given the limited amount of funding, staff will develop next year's UPWP with minimal additional tasks.

Regarding the UPWP, Mr. Doyle stated we have received a request from the Town of Marlborough to look at a 9W Corridor study in the hamlet area. Ms. Lanzetta stated Marlborough received \$25,000 from Senator Larkin's office to fund a hamlet transportation study. She added that a lot of studies have been done on that area already and the Town would like to compile the information. Mr. Doyle added that Ulster County was not an MPO at the time a DOT funded Transportation Plan study completed in 2003. When the Council adopted the plan, it included the original primers, which are still available online. Mr. Tobin asked how we will move this request forward. Mr. Doyle stated we can write Marlborough's request into the UPWP. Mr. Tobin stated he believed we have the staffing to do this study. Mr. Doyle added that we have been talking about doing educational work and individual safety audits at intersections, looking at crash data throughout the County. Mr. Valk asked where these audits would be taking place. Mr. Doyle answered along the 9W Corridor through the Marlborough Town Line.

Financially speaking, Mr. Doyle stated that at this time the County has been completely reimbursed by NYSDOT for all UCTC-related activities.

NEW BUSINESS

a. FFY 2008-2012 TIP Update

Mr. Tobin gave a presentation and stated the information is available on the website.

Mr. Tobin stated the TIP Subcommittee should be meeting in late January. Mr. Doyle asked how many of the TIP Subcommittee members were in attendance (all but Mr. Shepard). Ms. Hokanson, on behalf of the TIP Subcommittee, described how some of the projects were rated.

Mr. Doyle asked if there were any comments.

Ms. Lanzetta made a motion to accept the TIP Subcommittee's recommendations as presented, which was seconded by Ms. Hammond.

Mr. Doyle thanked the TIP Subcommittee for their work.

Ms. Hokanson asked when the funding would be available for the Transportation Enhancement Program projects that were selected. Mr. Peters stated applicants will be contacted by the Local Projects Unit to begin the project development process.

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Mr. Doyle stated the Council is concerned whether the projects that are funded are being implemented. He said if anyone has a problem or concern to let him know. Ms. Lanzetta said she wanted to thank the staff for alerting Marlborough to the fact that they should be in the design phase for sidewalks and should contact NYSDOT. Mr. Doyle said at the end of every fiscal year we will give a progress report. Mr. Martello stated Marletown has had problems with programmed funds. Mr. Doyle stated you can check the TIP to see when funded. Mr. Rich stated that it is required under Federal law to show which projects are approved at the Federal level. Mr. Rich and Mr. Peters both described the process from TIP application to Federal Highway approval. Mr. Peters added that the process takes time. Mr. Peters stated \$40 Million is available every year for local projects. Mr. Doyle asked if there is a need for capacity to ensure that communities that receive funding can spend their funding in an effective manner, meet State and Federal requirements and implement projects within a designed budget. Mr. Doyle stated staff has been thinking about looking at other sources of funding.

Mr. Doyle asked if anyone had other things to explore. Mr. Liepmann asked about mini-roundabouts. Mr. Peters stated that work has been done in Oregon and Washington State and the reports he's heard are they work very well, are a good idea for local roads; although each case is different. He added that if anyone wanted to talk more about it to contact him.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Tobin stated for next year's UPWP we would like to finish up what was started this year. Mr. Doyle added for next year as new projects we are looking at the Marlborough project, intersection safety audits and have asked the Committee to submit additional study considerations to staff for discussion at the next Technical Committee.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. Nolan from the Town of Shandaken asked about stormwater runoff related to transportation and wanted to know if this Council was the right place to air her concern. She added that she would also like to move forward and join in on a process. Mr. Doyle said the short answer is yes, the TEP program has an environmental funding source and Ulster County is an MS4 County. The NYC Department of Environmental Protection is handling water sources in Shandaken. The County is talking about getting an Environmental Engineer in the Highway Department.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. Motion by Nancy Hammond, seconded by Michael Shultis.